

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. In response to the Final Office Action mailed September 26, 2005, Applicants have amended claims 1, 18, 35, 49, 54, 61, 71, 77, 80, and 86, and cancelled claims 5, 24, 39, 50, 53, 60, 65, and 73. In the Application, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-23, 25-31, 34-38, 40-46, 49, 51-52, 54, 56-59, 61-64, 66-72, 74-77, 80-87, and 89 are pending.

For the following reasons, it is submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 8, the Action indicates claims 51-52 and 58-59 are allowable and that claims 53 and 60 include allowable subject matter.

Independent claims 1, 18, 35, 49, 54, 61, 71, 77, 80, and 86 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter. Applicants note that these amendments should not be construed as an admission that any of the references applied in the previous Action render the previous claims obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Since the amendments to the claims include subject matter previously indicated as being allowable, no additional search or consideration is required. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment after final and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-23, 25-31, 34-38, 40-46, 49, 51-52, 54, 56-59, 61-64, 66-72, 74-77, 80-87, and 89.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) On pages 2-4, the Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 18, 35, 38-40, 49, 50, 54, 56, 57, 61, 62, 65, 66, 71, 73, and 86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,425,084 to Rallis et al. (hereinafter Rallis) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,580 to Molva et al. (hereinafter Molva).

(b) On pages 4-6, the Action rejects claims 7-10, 12-15, 19-26, 28-31, 34, 36, 37, 41, 43-46, 63, 64, 67-69, 72, 74-77, 80-83, 85, 87, and 89 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Rallis and Molva, in further view of the Network World article “Buyer’s Guide” to Kobielus (hereinafter Kobielus).

(c) On page 6, the Action rejects claims 11, 27, 42, 70, and 84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rallis, Molva, and Kobielus, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,838,404 to Smith (hereinafter Smith).

As discussed above, claims 1, 18, 35, 49, 54, 61, 71, 77, 80, and 86 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter.

Claims 2, 4, 6-15, 19-23, 25-31, 34, 36-38, 40-46, 51-52, 56-59, 62-64, 66-70, 72, 74-76, 81-85, 87, and 89, which respectively depend from the allowable independent claims, are also in condition for allowance because of their dependence on allowable claims, respectively.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-23, 25-31, 34-38, 40-46, 49, 51-52, 54, 56-59, 61-64, 66-72, 74-77, 80-87, and 89 are in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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